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Young Men's Christian Association of Montreal

YMCA SPOKESMAN SAYS LEGISLATION
ALONE NO ANSWER TO DRUG-TAKING.

For release at will.

NOVEMBER 29--A prominent youth worker suggested last night that adults will have to dig deeply into their wells of patience and understanding if they want to check drug-taking by young people.

"I doubt if the problem can be legislated out of existence," says R.G. Rogers, General Secretary of the Montreal YMCA. "Laws will help, but only knowledge, insight and repeated demonstrations that adults really care can provide a lasting cure."

Mr. Rogers, a panellist in a Drug Forum at John Grant High School in Lachine, noted that some students try marijuana, hashish and L.S.D. because it is an 'in' thing, and they are curious.

But many who become habitual users are protesting, often unknowingly, against overly-strict or insufficient controls and a real or fancied impersonalization of relationships with adults.

"Most young people would welcome opportunities to share responsibility. They resent being deprived of opportunities to exercise initiative," he insists.

In discussing the ramifications of such attitudes, the YMCA executive observed that young people are generally extremely sensitive about their dignity, and where they fit.

"They react both to what is said, and how it is said.

They would rather be given information, guidelines and some clear expectations than simply be controlled," he stated.

He also emphasized that young people urgently want adults to share themselves as genuine persons who, regardless of competency, will frankly reveal their feelings and weaknesses along with their strengths.

"I think youth are looking for standards, principles and values to measure themselves against," he added. "If adults don't share theirs openly, then youth is deprived of an essential ingredient in seeking alternatives."

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